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OCT 14 2003
GROUP 1700

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following new Abstract which appears on a separate sheet.

Please add the following new heading after the title and before line 1 of page 1:

--Background of the Invention--

Please add the following new heading before line 1 of page 5:

--Summary of the Invention--

Please add the following new heading after the paragraph ending on line 14 of page 11:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

Please add the following new heading after the paragraph ending on line 6 of page 12:

--Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Maintenance of the level of meniscus 6 can also be achieved by means of a device such as that shown in Figure 3, in which vessel 1 has two separate compartments 13 and 14 linked simply by a channel 15 of small cross-section relative to the two compartments. Compartment 14 is positioned at a height above the bottom of compartment 13 so that the channel 15, connected to the bottom of compartment 13, slopes upwards and is connected to the

bottom of compartment 14. The metal wire 4 passes through compartment ~~[[11]]~~ 14 vertically from bottom to top, emerging via the exit channel 3 constructed on the upper face of compartment 14. To make up for the consumption of molten metal, electromagnetic pumps 16 and 17 have been fitted on either side of channel 15 for pumping the molten metal towards compartment 14.--